THE
Theatrical Observer.
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice.'

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EIGHT-PENNY CRITICISM.

A sapient weekly print, entitled THE LITERARY GAZETTE, and JOURNAL OF THE BELLES LETTRES, in its last number, condescended to notice *The Theatrical Observer*, under the witty head of "PENNY CRITICISM." After some expressions of alarm at our incursion into the province of Criticism, and disdain at our array, *The Literary Gazette* describes the form and matter of our publication. Its learned Editor then, gives his wig a twitch, rubs his brows, looks solemn, and begins to perform his critical duty. He fastens first on a sentence respecting Mrs. Tenant—and calls it "fine writing were it only intelligible." We readily confess the incorrectness of the construction of the quoted sentence, and we believe we could point out many others in our pages equally defective in this respect. Yet some apology may be offered for errors of this description, for be it known, that we often write half-a-sleep after the fatigue of sitting out a noisy, gaudy, uninspiring performance. But if our *Penny* Criticism be sometimes obscure, what will the public think of *Eight-penny* Criticism equally dark?—We, whose lucubrations are *limited* to some half-hour past midnight, may be excused for occasional mistification in our style; but the learned writer of a *Weekly* Journal of *The Belles Lettres*, who has *seven* days to scribble as much *original* matter as occupies us not seven hours altogether, and who retails his wisdom at *eight* times our cost, surely should be a paragon of correctness, and as luminous as the rays that surround Apollo's pericranium: yet lo! and behold!—in the very article of this Helicon Gazette, now under our eye, we find *mist* predominant. The learned Editor says:

"The Pirate is more recently submitted to the ordeal of the censor, and he reproves Mr. Pope for looking so like a *well*-whipped school-boy in his expression of extreme grief, that it always makes the critic smile. By this his gravity is proclaimed, for in such cases every body else must laugh."

We confess our utter inability to divine the meaning, be it solemn wisdom, or smirking satire, of the last sentence. *Whose* gravity is proclaimed? What *cases* are meant? The learned Critic has done with us in the following terms, for which we doff our Caps to his Worship.

"We will not tire our readers with any more observations on this Observer; and though he is a poacher on our domain, we will do him the justice to say that his publications are rendered so much more useful by a tolerable analysis of the plots of new pieces, the names of the characters, and other intelligence, that we cannot help admitting them to be superior to the bills heretofore accepted. That he is fertile is evident; for he has filled his usual space with criticisms all this week, and we (so stale do all the performances appear to us) have not a word to throw at a dog---not even Liston's in the "Two Gentlemen," i. e. the Dog and he."

DRURY LANE.

We are happy to state that the Pit and Galleries of this house were full last night; the Boxes, however, were but thinly attended. *Brutus* was performed with much effect; and was followed by *Giovanni in London*, which, surprising to say, still has attractions! Madame Vestris, Harley, and the old favourite airs, give a character to this *Extravaganza* that buoys it up in spite of its pointless dialogue. It is near a-kin to Pantomime, but has the advantage of that species of entertainment, by possessing some humourous satire on the follies of the world. By this time Madame Vestris must be so familiarized to the assumption of the male character, that she, no doubt, makes many blunders in her manners—a bow for a courtesy—a strut for a mincing step—a bold look for a modest expression—a compliment to a fair lady, instead of a cut at the gentlemen---possibly a *demme* instead of a *Lard!* or *Oh la!*---a challenge in place of a---*Get you gone, naughty man!*---and, *Heaven bless the mark!* a box on the ear, instead of a tap of the fan!

COVENT GARDEN.

This house was crowded last night. *The Exile* and the *Pantomime* were the performances, and both passed off with their usual effect.

On *Thursday* next the new Opera, called *Montrose, or the Children of the Mist*, is to be produced, unless there is another *put-off*. The managers do themselves and an author little benefit by these positive announcements, and unexplained delays. They should *never disappoint* the public. In the political world *vascillation* is considered a sure mark of a *weak* government, and there is no reason why, in the theatrical world, a different character should attach to the same conduct.

THE ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE

This Evening the Opera Buffa entitled *Il Turco in Italia*, with a *Divertissement*. After which; the Ballet of *Le Carnival de Venise*.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening will be performed the Play of

THE TEMPEST.

Prospero, *(a Magician)* Mr. YOUNG,
Alonzo, King of Naples, Mr. EGERTON,
Antonio, the Usurper of Milan, Mr. CHAPMAN,
Ferdinand, Mr. ABBOTT,
Gonzalo, a Nepolitan, Counsellor, Mr. JEFFERIES,
Hippolyto Mr. DURUSET, Stephano Mr. FARREN
Trinculo, Mr. BLANCHARD,
Caliban, a monster, of the Island, Mr. EMERY
Dorinda, Miss STEPHENS,
Miranda, Miss HALLANDE, Ariel, Miss TREE.
Chorus of Spirits, 1st Spirit, Mr. PYNE,
Mess. Comer Crumpton, George, Montague, Norris, G. Pyne, &c. &c.
Miss BEAUMONT, Mrs. BISHOP, Mrs. BOYLE, Miss LOVE, &c

After which

The Two Pages of
Frederick the Great.

The Principal Characters by
Mr. W. FARREN,
Mrs. CHATTERLEY, Miss FOOTE,
Mr. FAWCETT,
Mrs, FAUCIT, Miss LOVE,
Mrs. GIBBS. Mrs. VINING.

To-morrow, the Two Gentlemen of Verona & the New Pantomine.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening will be performed (for the 2nd time) a New Melo-dramatic serious drama, entitled

ADELINE.

The Principal Characters by

Mr. COOPER, Mr. PENLEY, Mr. THOMPSON,
Mr. BROMLEY, Mr. WILLMOTT,
Mr KNIGHT,
Miss. SMITHSON, and Miss COPLAND.

After which, the Comic Drama of The

Three and the Deuce.

The Three Singles by Mr. ELLISTON.

(*The other Characters as before.*)

To conclude with the Entertainment of

Paul and Virginia.

Paul, Madame VESTRIS.
Alambra, Miss COPELAND, Dominique, Mr. KNIGHT,
Captain Tropic, Mr. GATTIE, Don Antonio, Mr. PENLEY.
Diego, Mr. WILLMOTT, Sebastian, Mr. HUGHES,
Sailor, Mr. Howell, Captain of the Guard, Mr. Gibbon.
Officer, Mr. Webster.

Virginia, Miss POVEY,

Ja ntha, Miss CUBITT, with the Song of the Mocking Bird,

Mary, Mrs. BLAND.

In Act II. *A DANCE by Miss TREE,*

To-morrow, will be revived, the Play of RICHES, Luke Mr. Kean. with ADELINE, the Victim of Seduction.